



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
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**For Immediate Release**

**Los Angeles River Pilot Recreation Zone Season to End on Labor Day**

***Hugely Successful Summer Program Allowing Kayaking and other recreational activities on a 2.5 Mile Stretch of the River Will Close at Sunset on Monday, September 2, 2013***

Los Angeles—August 30, 2013—The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) announced today that the Los Angeles River Pilot Recreation Zone will be closing for the season as planned at the end of the Labor Day weekend, on Monday September 2, 2013.

The hugely popular 2.5 mile Los Angeles River Recreation Zone in Elysian Valley near downtown Los Angeles stretches from Fletcher Drive south to MRCA's Egret Park. The Recreation Zone has been managed by the MRCA for fourteen weeks since it opened to the public on Memorial Day. Rangers will officially close the river access at sunset on Labor Day. Signs will be posted "Closed for the Season," access points will be closed off, and other fixtures in place for the duration of program will be removed.

By all measures, the pilot recreation zone was a success," said MRCA Chief Ranger, Fernando Gomez, an expert kayaker who is certified in swiftwater and low-angle rescue, and who organized and led many of the public programs offered by the MRCA. "People really enjoyed themselves on the river this summer. In addition to all the kayakers, we saw a big increase in family activity and more people coming close to the river and getting a new perspective."

"We hope to work with the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and the Army Corps of Engineers to offer the program again next year," added Gomez.

Under permits issued by the MRCA, the kayak operators Los Angeles River Expeditions and Los Angeles River Safari provided guided trips to the public. Several thousand park visitors toured the river through these services or as independent kayakers. In addition, MRCA rangers provided kayak tours for teenagers from Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Recreation Centers throughout the city, as well as "Junior Rangers" from the MRCA River Unit, Ballona Unit, and the Compton Junior Posse.

Los Angeles River Recreation Zone to Close for the Season  
August 30, 2013  
Page 2

Continuing the program started by the MRCA in the Sepulveda Basin last year, Rangers also conducted tours in specially designed “kaboats” for disabled teens.

The MRCA also joined with Los Angeles River Safari to sponsor three “Community Paddle” evening events staged at the MRCA’s Marsh Park which gave local community members the opportunity to kayak with their families. Hundreds of residents were able to enjoy the pleasure of paddling in their own backyard.

‘The United States Environmental Protection Agency Designated this river a “Traditional Navigable Water,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer of the MRCA. “We want to make sure that everyone has access to all of its resources and infinite possibilities.”

Many of the elected officials who represent the area that includes the Recreation Zone kayaked the river this summer either with the MRCA or other groups, including Mayor Eric Garcetti, Congressman Adam Schiff, Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez, and Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell.

The MRCA has been working together with the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the Army Corps of Engineers, and many community groups and non profit organizations for years with an eye towards creating a continuous 51-mile greenway from the headwaters of the river in the San Fernando Valley, to its terminus in the Pacific Ocean at Long Beach. The success of the recreation zone and the enthusiasm with which the public has embraced the kayak and fishing programs furthers the realization of this goal.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a local public park agency dedicated to the preservation and management of open space, urban parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages more than 69,000 acres of public parkland and provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, operations, fire prevention and ranger services, as well as education and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year. It is one of the lead agencies revitalizing the Los Angeles River.

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